

The RADIANTS

1. Father Knows Best 2:46 1832 (1962) Chess
2. One Day I'll Show You 2:48 1832 (1962) Chess
3. Shy Guy 2:29
4. I'm In Love 2:45
5. Heartbreak Society 2:32
6. Please Don't Leave Me 2:39
7. Voice Your Choice 2:31
8. If I Only Had You 2:58
9. It Ain't No Big Thing 2:46
10. I've Got A Girl 2:15
11. I Gotta Dance To Keep My Baby 3:01
12. Noble The Bargain Man 2:52
13. Whole Lot Of Woman 2:41
14. Tomorrow 2:47
15. Baby You've Got It 2:57
16. I Want To Thank You 2:55

MAURICE MCALISTER

17. I'd Rather Do It Myself 2:15
18. Baby Hang On 2:27

MAURICE & MAC

19. You Left The Water Running 2:44
20. Oh What A Time 2:18
21. What Am I Going To Do 3:24
22. Lay It On Me 2:20
23. Baby You're The One 2:54
24. I'm Afraid To Let You Know 2:48
25. Try Me 2:21
26. Lean On Me 2:50
27. Love Power 2:24

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The RADIANTS

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MAURICE & MAC

The original Radiants came together in 1960. Key members were drawn from the Greater Harvest Baptist Church Youth Choir of Chicago. Maurice McAlister was first lead tenor and responsible for drawing the ex-choir members together. They were Wallace Sampson, baritone, Jerome Brooks, second tenor, Elzie Butler, bass and Charles Washington, first tenor. The group, still supported by the Baptist Church, sang gospel and modeled themselves after other notable Chicago quartets. Soon, with Washington replaced by Green "Mac" McLauren, McAlister's quartet crossed over into rhythm & blues and cut a demonstration record to send to record companies in the Chicago and Detroit areas.

The Radiants approached Chess Records four or five times with little success. Finally their manager, Lee Jackson, took their demo directly to Leonard Chess who, after hearing it, signed the group to a contract in the spring of 1962.

The outfit's first release, "Father Knows Best" coupled with "One Day I'll Show You" were quite deliberately Smokey Robinson variations. "Father Knows Best" did fairly well in Chicago but never broke out nationally.

"Heartbreak Society", backed with "Please Don't Leave Me Baby" emerged in the spring of 1963. Recorded in August, 1963, "Shy Guy" undersided with "I'm In Love" hit the Chicago Top 40 and became a hit at dance halls but failed to break nationally. For this recording, Frank McCollum replaced Green "Mac" McLauren who was drafted into the army.

At this point, after experiencing internal strife, the group saw major member changes. As a result only McAlister and Sampson remained. However, a fellow Harvest Baptist choir member, Leonard Caston Jr., who had just finished his army duty, joined the group and The Radiants became a trio.

Incorporating similar vocal arrangements as Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions, The Radiants recorded and released songs such as "Voice Your Choice, a #16 charted record on the Billboard charts, and "It Ain't No Big Thing" which peaked at #14 nationally.

In mid 1965 Caston Jr. decided to leave The Radiants in order to spend more time producing sessions for Chess Records. After a few more unsuccessful releases by The Radiants, Maurice McAlister decided to record as a solo artist. "Baby Hang On" and "I'd Rather Do It By Myself" was released in 1967 and sold poorly.

Chess Records continued to release records by The Radiants but the group was actually the group formerly known as The Confessions. Without McAlister's distinctive voice and writing skills, the new Radiants disbanded in 1967. None of the Radiants/Confessions recordings are included here.

Green "Mac" McLauren returned from the army in late 1967 and soon thereafter joined Maurice McAlister to form a duo called, appropriately, Maurice & Mac. The duo borrowed heavily from Stax Records popular Sam and Dave.

Maurice & Mac recorded sessions in Muscle Shoals, Alabama in 1968 and 1969 and returned to Chicago for a final session in 1970. They continued to perform but finally broke up in 1972.

Maurice and The Radiants have appeared more recently in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina where they have a big following with the "Beach" music crowd.

This compilation brings together, for the first time, all the Maurice McAlister led Radiants recordings (most of which were written by McAlister). Also included is his only solo effort and nine songs by Maurice & Mac. Enjoy.